

## BUSH'S \$50,000 WACO SHOWDOWN WACO, TX • NOVEMBER 1-8

### TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

**Site:** Hurd Tennis Center at Baylor University  
Waco, Texas

**Websites:** [www.wacotennishowdown.com](http://www.wacotennishowdown.com)  
[procircuit.usta.com](http://procircuit.usta.com)

**Twitter:** @WacoShowdown

**Qualifying Draw Begins:** Sunday, Nov. 1

**Main Draw Begins:** Tuesday, Nov. 3

**Main Draw:** 32 Singles / 16 Doubles

**Surface:** Hard / Outdoor

**Prize Money:** \$50,000

**Tournament Director:**

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### PRIZE MONEY / POINTS

SINGLES:	Prize Money	Ranking Points
Winner	\$7,600	80
Runner-Up	\$4,053	48
Semifinalist	\$2,216	29
Quarterfinalist	\$1,267	15
Round 16	\$760	8
Round 32	\$444	1

**DOUBLES:** Prize Money (per team)

Winner	\$2,786
Runner-Up	\$1,393
Semifinalist	\$696
Quarterfinalist	\$380
Round 16	\$254

### COMMUNITY EVENTS

**Monday, Nov. 2**

Pro-Am, 5:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, Nov. 3**

"Cub Club" Kids' Clinic – 5:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, Nov. 4**

"Cub Club" Kids' Clinic – 5:00 p.m.

**Saturday, Nov. 7**

Community Clinic Day  
(Kids and Adults), 10:00 a.m.

**Sunday, Nov. 8**

Wheelchair Tennis Exhibition, 12:00 p.m.

## USTA PRO CIRCUIT WOMEN'S TENNIS RETURNS TO WACO FOR FIRST TIME SINCE 2003, CONTINUES AUSTRALIAN OPEN WILD CARD CHALLENGE

The **Bush's \$50,000 Waco Showdown** brings USTA Pro Circuit women's tennis back to Waco for the first time since 2003; the city previously hosted USTA Pro Circuit women's events in 1990 and from 2001 to 2003. The city also hosted a men's event 1983-86, 1990-2000, 2002-03, 2005 and 2008. It is one of eight USTA Pro Circuit events taking place in Texas this year.

Waco is the second of three consecutive women's hard-court tournaments that make up the **USTA Pro Circuit Australian Open Wild Card Challenge**, which will award a men's and women's wild card into the 2016 Australian Open. The USTA and Tennis Australia have a reciprocal agreement in which wild cards into the 2015 US Open and 2016 Australian Open are exchanged. The other tournaments in the women's portion of the wild card challenge are the \$50,000 events in Macon, Ga., held the week of Oct. 26, and Scottsdale, Ariz., held the week of Nov. 9.

The three women's tournaments join three men's tournaments—the Charlottesville Men's



USTA/Meo Dishman

*Nicole Gibbs received a wild card into this year's US Open and won her first-round match. Gibbs captured consecutive NCAA singles titles in 2012 and 2013 for Stanford University, becoming just the fifth player in history to win back-to-back NCAA Division I women's singles championships.*

Pro Challenger in Charlottesville, Va., held the week of Nov. 2; the Knoxville 2015 Challenger in Knoxville, Tenn., held the week of Nov. 9; and the JSM Challenger of Champaign-Urbana in Champaign, Ill., held the week of Nov. 16.

The American woman who earns the most WTA ranking points at two of the three USTA Pro Circuit hard-court events will receive a wild card to compete in the main draw of the 2016 Australian Open, which will be held Monday, Jan. 18, through Sunday, Jan. 31. Only players who did not receive direct entry into the Australian Open are eligible for the wild cards.

This tournament will be streamed live on [www.procircuit.usta.com](http://www.procircuit.usta.com). To follow the tournament, download the USTA Pro Circuit's new phone app by searching "procircuit" in the app store.



USTA/Tim Harris

*Sixteen-year-old CiCi Bellis finished 2014 as the No. 1-ranked junior player in the world. She made international headlines at the 2014 US Open with her first-round upset of No. 12 seed Dominika Cibulkova, becoming the youngest female player to win a main draw match at the US Open since 1996.*

Notable players competing in the main draw include:

**Nicole Gibbs**, who received a wild card into the 2015 US Open and won her first-round match. Last year, Gibbs advanced to the third round of the US Open—her career-best result—after winning the USTA Pro Circuit's US Open Wild Card Challenge to earn a spot in the US Open main draw. She also won the third \$50,000 USTA Pro Circuit event of her career in Carson, Calif., in 2014. This year, Gibbs advanced to the second round of the Australian Open—her first Grand Slam main draw appearance outside the US Open—and competed in the French Open and Wimbledon main draws, peaking at No. 84 in the world in March. She also qualified for this summer's Emirates Airline US Open Series event in Stanford, Calif., upsetting Caroline Garcia to reach the round of 16. Following this year's US Open, Gibbs reached the final of the \$50,000 USTA Pro Circuit event in Kirkland, Wash., and the semifinals at the \$50,000 event in Las Vegas; she also won the doubles title in Las Vegas. Gibbs won consecutive NCAA singles titles in 2012 and 2013 for Stanford University, becoming the fifth player in history—and the fourth from Stanford—to win back-to-back NCAA Division I women's singles championships. She also helped lead Stanford to its 17th NCAA team title in 2013. As a junior player, Gibbs advanced to the final of the USTA Girls' 18s National Championships in 2010 and 2011 and reached the semifinals of the 2011 junior US Open. She trains at the USTA Training Center Headquarters in Boca Raton, Fla.

Sixteen-year-old **CiCi Bellis**, who made international headlines at the 2014 US Open with her first-round upset of No. 12 seed and reigning Australian Open finalist Dominika Cibulkova. With the victory, Bellis, then 15, became the youngest female player to win a main draw match at the US Open since Anna Kournikova in 1996. Bellis earned a wild card into the US Open main draw as the USTA Girls' 18s national champion; she was the youngest USTA Girls' 18s national champion since Lindsay Davenport in 1991. Following the 2014 US Open, Bellis won the first USTA Pro Circuit singles titles of her career at \$25,000 events in Rock Hill, S.C., and Florence, S.C. She added a third singles title this year at the \$25,000 event in Rancho Santa Fe, Calif. Also this year, Bellis reached the third round of the WTA event in Miami as a wild card before losing to Serena Williams, raising her ranking to a career-best No. 168 in the world in May. In the junior ranks, Bellis clinched the ITF's year-end No. 1 world ranking in December 2014, becoming the second American girl in the last three years to earn the ITF's year-end top junior ranking for players ages 18 and under (joining Taylor Townsend, 2012). Also in December, Bellis reached the singles semifinals and won the doubles title at the Metropolia Orange Bowl International Championships in Plantation, Fla. In addition, she led the United States to the 2014 Junior Fed Cup title in Mexico, helping the American squad win the 16-and-under world team title for the third time in seven years (2008, 2012, 2014).

**Anna Tatishvili**, who qualified for the 2015 US Open and reached the second round. She also qualified for the 2015 Australian Open and reached the second round and advanced to the quarterfinals of the WTA event in Bucharest, Romania, in July. Tatishvili peaked at No. 50 in the world in singles in October 2012 and No. 59 in doubles in May 2012. Her best Grand Slam tournament result came at the 2012 US Open, where she reached the fourth round before falling to top seed Victoria Azarenka. Tatishvili has won eight USTA Pro Circuit singles titles and three ITF Pro Circuit singles titles in her career. She won her first WTA doubles title last year in Linz, Austria. As a junior player, Tatishvili climbed as high as No. 19 in the ITF World Junior Rankings and reached the doubles semifinals at the 2006 junior Australian Open with Caroline Wozniacki. Tatishvili formerly represented the country of Georgia but changed her representation to the United States in April 2014.

**Katerina Stewart**, who competed in US Open, French Open and Wimbledon qualifying this year. Stewart has enjoyed a strong 2015 season, winning three singles titles on the USTA Pro Circuit and going 13-2 this spring in a string of \$50,000 clay-court events, where she won in Indian Harbour Beach, Fla., and reached the finals in Charlottesville, Va., and Savannah, Ga. In the junior ranks, she won the USTA Girls' 18s National Clay Court Championships in July 2014. That capped a 34-match winning streak in junior and pro matches, during which she won three USTA Pro Circuit \$10,000 clay-court events (Orlando, Fla.; Bethany Beach, Del.; and Charlotte, N.C.). Stewart was awarded a wild card into qualifying at the 2014 US Open and won her first-round qualifying match over Yuliya Beygelizimer, a former Top 100 player. Stewart also played in the doubles main draw at the 2014 US Open with Louisa Chirico, falling in the first round. Stewart's mother, Marina, was an Argentine WTA pro and Katerina is coached by her father, Cesar.

**Sachia Vickery**, who peaked at No. 108 in the world in July after qualifying for Wimbledon and reaching the quarterfinals of the Wimbledon tune-up event in Nottingham, England. Also this year, Vickery represented the United States in the Pan American Games in Toronto and won the first two USTA Pro Circuit singles titles of her career, at the \$25,000 Florida events in Plantation and Sunrise. In her young career, the 20-year-old has competed in the US Open, Wimbledon and the Australian Open main draws, receiving a main draw wild card into the 2015 US Open and earning one into the 2014 Australian Open by winning the USTA's Australian Open Wild Card Playoff. She also competed in qualifying for the US Open, French Open and Wimbledon in 2014, and she reached the quarterfinals at the Emirates Airline US Open Series event in Stanford, Calif., last summer—her first WTA quarterfinal. In 2013, Vickery won the USTA National Girls' 18s singles and doubles titles, earning wild cards into the main draws of the singles and doubles events at the 2013 US Open. At the Open, she won her first-round match in her Grand Slam debut, defeating Mirjana Lucic-Baroni in straight sets. As a junior player, Vickery ascended to No. 6 in the ITF World Junior Rankings, reaching the junior doubles semifinals at Wimbledon in 2012 and competing in all four junior Grand Slam tournaments. She trains with coach Adrian Zeman at the ZMG Tennis at Deer Creek facility in Deerfield Beach, Fla., and was a longtime trainee of the USTA Player Development program at the USTA Training Center Headquarters in Boca Raton, Fla.

**Samantha Crawford**, who competed in the US Open main draw for the second time in her career this year after winning this summer's USTA Pro Circuit's US Open Wild Card Challenge. Her run to the challenge title was highlighted by reaching the final of the \$50,000 event in Lexington, Ky. Crawford enjoyed previous success at the US Open. In 2012, she won the girls' singles title and qualified for the women's singles main draw as a qualifying wild card. She has also competed in the US Open women's doubles draw three times (2011-12, 2014). At 6-foot-2, Crawford's big serve and aggressive baseline game helped her rise to No. 5 in the ITF World Junior Rankings in 2012. This year, she won her fourth and fifth career USTA Pro Circuit doubles titles at the \$25,000 USTA Pro Circuit events in Rancho Santa Fe, Calif., and Baton Rouge, La.

**Grace Min**, the former US Open junior champion who peaked at a career-high No. 97 in the world in March after reaching the second round of the WTA's Rio Open and competing in Indian Wells. In 2014, Min reached the semifinals of the WTA event in Bad Gastein, Austria—her first-ever WTA semifinal—and competed in the US Open and French Open main draws, qualifying at Roland Garros. Min was one of the top juniors in the world in 2011, when she won the US Open girls' singles title and the Wimbledon girls' doubles title. Those results helped propel her to No. 4 in the world junior rankings. In 2013, she qualified for the

French Open—her first main draw Grand Slam appearance outside the U.S.—as well as the US Open. She holds six USTA Pro Circuit singles titles overall is coming off her first title of 2015, won in October at the \$25,000 event in Florence, S.C.

**Julia Boserup**, who qualified for and reached the quarterfinals of the WTA event in Monterrey, Mexico, in April 2014 for her career-best WTA result. In addition, following the 2014 US Open, she reached the quarterfinals or better at three \$50,000 USTA Pro Circuit events. In her career, Boserup has competed in qualifying at the US Open and Australian Open, and she has won three USTA Pro Circuit singles titles, including the \$25,000 event in Raleigh, N.C., earlier this year—her first USTA Pro Circuit title since 2012, when she achieved a career-best singles ranking of No. 174. This fall, Boserup won the doubles title at the \$50,000 USTA Pro Circuit event in Las Vegas and reached the singles semifinals at the \$75,000 event in Albuquerque, N.M. Boserup was also a standout junior, winning the prestigious Orange Bowl in 2008, defeating future U.S. Olympian Christina McHale in the final.

**Maria Sanchez**, who peaked at No. 107 in the world in July 2013 behind strong results on the USTA Pro Circuit and the WTA tour. Also in 2013, Sanchez made her debut in a Grand Slam tournament main draw by earning a wild card into the US Open. In 2014, she won her first WTA doubles title, in Auckland, New Zealand, with Sharon Fichman. For her career, Sanchez has won two USTA Pro Circuit singles titles, both in 2012, and 14 USTA Pro Circuit/ITF Pro Circuit doubles titles, including four this year alone. Also this year, she reached the singles final of the \$25,000 USTA Pro Circuit event in Rancho Santa Fe, Calif., losing to up-and-coming young American CiCi Bellis. As a junior player, Sanchez was ranked No. 1 in the United States as a 16-year-old and No. 4 in the country as an 18-year-old. She also was the No. 1-ranked collegian and an ITA All-American at the University of Southern California, winning the 2011 USTA/ITA National Indoor Intercollegiate Championship singles title.

Notable players competing in qualifying include:

**Melanie Oudin**, who has played in just a few USTA Pro Circuit tournaments since October 2014 after undergoing a heart procedure. Most recently, she reached the quarterfinals of the \$50,000 USTA Pro Circuit event in Stockton, Calif., in July, and advanced to the final round of qualifying for the 2015 US Open. Oudin burst onto the tennis scene in 2009, defeating former world No. 1 Jelena Jankovic to reach the fourth round at Wimbledon and beating five-time Grand Slam tournament champion Maria Sharapova en route to the US Open quarterfinals. Oudin peaked at No. 31 in the world in singles in April 2010, but she struggled with injuries and inconsistency in the year that followed. She started a comeback in 2012, capturing her first career WTA title at the Wimbledon tune-up event in Birmingham, England. She then competed at Wimbledon as a wild card. Oudin also earned a wild card into the 2012 French Open based on her results on the USTA Pro Circuit, which included a title at the event in Charlottesville, Va. (She reached the second round at Roland Garros that year.) In addition to her success in singles, Oudin notched one of the biggest victories of her career at the 2011 US Open, claiming the mixed doubles title with fellow American Jack Sock. She has also been a consistent performer for the U.S. Fed Cup team in the past. Oudin announced in November 2013 that she was suffering from rhabdomyolysis, a muscle-damaging condition, and took time off to deal with it. She resumed competition in March 2014 and competed on the USTA Pro Circuit and in qualifying for the US Open, French Open and Wimbledon. She was then sidelined again by the heart procedure.

**Jennifer Brady**, who is coming off her second career USTA Pro Circuit

singles title, at the \$25,000 event in Rock Hill, S.C., in October. Earlier this year, Brady won the singles and doubles titles at the \$25,000 event in Redding, Calif. In May, Brady completed her sophomore year at UCLA and turned pro. During the 2014-15 season, the 20-year-old was part of the UCLA team that reached the final of the NCAA Team Championships. And during her freshman season (2013-14), she was a member of the 2014 NCAA championship-winning team.

**Kristie Ahn**, who graduated from Stanford in 2014 as a four-time All-American. Ahn went 97-17 in four seasons at Stanford and was named the 2014 ITA National Senior Player of the Year. She qualified for the 2008 US Open, where she lost to former world No. 1 Dinara Safina in the first round. Ahn has also won five USTA Pro Circuit/ITF Pro Circuit singles titles, including two titles in Korea and Canada this year, and one doubles title.

**Allie Kiick**, who won her first \$50,000 USTA Pro Circuit event earlier this year in Charlottesville, Va. In the final, Kiick defeated fellow young American Katerina Stewart, 7-5 6-7(3), 7-5, in a match that lasted more than three hours. Kiick also competed in qualifying for 2015 Wimbledon. She peaked at No. 136 in the world in 2014 but missed the fall (September 2014 to December 2014) with a knee injury. In her career, Kiick has won three USTA Pro Circuit titles; in addition to Charlottesville, she captured the \$10,000 event in Gainesville, Fla., in 2013 and the \$10,000 tournament in Amelia Island, Fla., in 2011. In the junior ranks, she was a finalist in the 2013 USTA Girls' 18s National Championships singles event and won the doubles title with Sachia Vickery, allowing her to make her Grand Slam main draw debut in the 2013 US Open women's doubles event. Kiick is the daughter of Jim Kiick, a running back on the undefeated 1972 Miami Dolphins. Her mother, Mary Johnson, is a former professional softball player. Allie has spent time training at the USTA Training Center Headquarters in Boca Raton, Fla., and with former Grand Slam tournament finalist Harold Solomon. She is competing in her first tournament since July after undergoing treatment for melanoma, a skin cancer.

**Danielle Lao**, who graduated from USC in 2013 after twice earning All-America honors during her college career. She also led the Trojans to back-to-back Pac-12 team championships and was a team captain her senior year. This June, Lao won her first career USTA Pro Circuit singles title at the \$25,000 event in Baton Rouge, La. Also in 2015, she qualified for the \$100,000 USTA Pro Circuit event in Midland, Mich., and won her first ITF Pro Circuit singles title in Leon, Mexico; she also captured the doubles title in Leon. She won the first USTA Pro Circuit title of her career in 2014 in doubles at the \$25,000 event in Pelham, Ala. After college at USC, Lao wrote a book, "Invaluable Experience," about playing college tennis.

**Sanaz Marand**, who played for the University of North Carolina, where she received All-America honors and, in 2010, helped lead the Tar Heels to their first NCAA team semifinals. In 2013, Marand won her first USTA Pro Circuit singles title, at the \$25,000 event in El Paso, Texas. She has also won 10 career USTA Pro Circuit doubles titles, including three tournaments this year. As a junior player, Marand reached the doubles final at the 2006 Easter Bowl with fellow American Ashley Weinhold.

**Robin Anderson**, who graduated from UCLA this year after earning All-America honors in both singles and doubles for the fourth consecutive year, becoming the seventh player in school history to accomplish that feat. She was named the ITA National Collegiate Player of the Year for 2014-15. Anderson was part of UCLA's NCAA-title winning team in 2014 and reached the NCAA doubles final in 2013. At the 2015 US Open, she won the American Collegiate Invitational, a tournament

for the top U.S. college players. In her career, Anderson has won one USTA Pro Circuit singles title (\$10,000 Landisville, Pa., in 2011) and one doubles title (\$25,000 Redding, Calif., in 2013). As a junior player, she reached the singles quarterfinals of the 2010 junior US Open.

**Caitlin Whoriskey**, a former University of Tennessee standout who was named the 2010 College Senior Player of the Year after leading the Volunteers to the quarterfinals of the NCAA Tournament. Whoriskey

captured her first career USTA Pro Circuit singles title last year at the \$10,000 event in Hilton Head Island, S.C., where she also won the doubles crown. This year, she reached the singles quarterfinals and doubles semifinals at the \$100,000 USTA Pro Circuit event in Midland, Mich., and won three USTA Pro Circuit doubles titles, bringing her total to 10 career USTA Pro Circuit/ITF Pro Circuit doubles titles. Whoriskey also won the 2014 US Open National Playoffs to earn a wild card into the US Open Qualifying Tournament, where she won her first-round match.

*\*Player field subject to change*

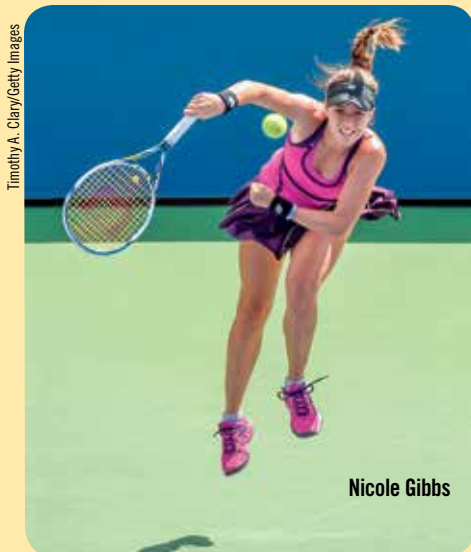
## WACO PAST WINNERS

Singles			Doubles	
Year	Winner	Runner-Up	Year	Winner
2003	Jacqueline Trail (USA)	Milangela Morales (USA)	2003	Alanna Broderick (JAM) – Ahsha Rolle (USA)
2002	Milangela Morales (USA)	Kyung-Mi Chang (KOR)	2002	Marina Bernstein (ISR) – Neyssa Etienne (HAI)
2001	Julie Ditty (USA)	Jahnavi Parekh (IND)	2001	Katja Kovac (SLO) – Jahnavi Parekh (IND)
1991-2000	Event not held		1991-2000	Event not held
1990	Rene Simpson-Alter (CAN)	Jeri Ingram (USA)	1990	Lindsay Bartlett (USA) – Shelly Bartlett (USA)

## USTA PRO CIRCUIT

With approximately 90 tournaments hosted annually throughout the country and prize money ranging from \$10,000 to \$100,000, the USTA Pro Circuit is the pathway to the US Open and tour-level competition for aspiring tennis players and a frequent battleground for established professionals. The USTA launched its Pro Circuit in 1979 to provide players with the opportunity to gain professional ranking points, and it has since grown to become the largest developmental tennis circuit in the world, offering nearly \$3 million in prize money. Last year, more than 1,000 men and women from more than 70 countries competed in cities nationwide. **Victoria Azarenka, Eugenie Bouchard, John Isner, Andy Murray, Kei Nishikori, Sam Querrey, Maria Sharapova** and **Caroline Wozniacki** are among today's top stars who began their careers on the USTA Pro Circuit.

More recently, the USTA Pro Circuit helped further the careers of two young Americans—**Stefan Kozlov** and **Nicole Gibbs**. In her first full season as a professional after capturing back-to-back NCAA singles championships in 2012 and 2013, **Gibbs** won the women's USTA Pro Circuit US Open Wild Card Challenge in 2014. After claiming the title at the \$50,000 USTA Pro Circuit event in Carson, Calif., **Gibbs** clinched the US Open wild card by advancing to the final of the \$50,000 tournament in Lexington, Ky., her last USTA Pro Circuit event of the season. **Gibbs** went on to reach the third round at the US Open, scoring a pair of Top 50 victories along the way. Two weeks after the US Open, as a qualifier at Seoul, she reached her first WTA quarterfinal, which boosted her into the WTA Top 100 for the first time. **Gibbs** earned the second-most WTA ranking points of any American playing the USTA Pro Circuit in 2014. **Kozlov**, runner-up in 2014 at the junior championships of the Australian Open and Wimbledon, reached the final of the Sacramento Challenger last October at age 16, becoming the youngest American to reach a Challenger final since Andre Agassi in 1986. That result vaulted **Kozlov** to No. 443 in the world, making him the youngest player in the ATP World Tour Top 500. He concluded 2014 by sweeping the singles and doubles titles at the prestigious Orange Bowl Junior Tennis Championships, locking down a No. 3 junior world ranking.



Nicole Gibbs

## PLAYER DEVELOPMENT

The USTA Player Development program identifies and develops the next generation of American champions by surrounding the top junior players and young pros with the resources, facilities and coaching they need to reach their maximum potential. The Player Development program is based at the USTA Training Center Headquarters in Boca Raton, Fla., and also utilizes Training Centers in Carson, Calif., and Flushing, N.Y., as well as a series of Certified Regional Training Centers located throughout the continental United States.

## YOUTH TENNIS

The USTA is making it easier and more fun for kids to get into the game—and stay in the game. Kids are learning to play faster than ever before through the USTA's youth initiative, which is geared toward getting more kids to participate in tennis using modified equipment and courts tailored to a child's size. For more information, visit [YouthTennis.com](http://YouthTennis.com).

## NJTL

Founded in 1969 by Arthur Ashe, along with Charlie Pasarell and Sheridan Snyder, the USTA/National Junior Tennis & Learning (NJTL) network is a nationwide group of more than 625 non-profit youth development organizations that provide free or low-cost tennis, education and life skills programming to more than 350,000 children each year. Celebrating its 45th anniversary this year, NJTL is one of the USTA's largest community-based offerings.

## US OPEN NATIONAL PLAYOFFS

The USTA launched the US Open National Playoffs in 2010, making the US Open "open" to anyone age 14+ and of all skill levels. Last year, more than 1,200 players competed in 13 Sectional Qualifying Tournaments nationwide for a 2014 US Open Qualifying



Tournament wild card. A mixed doubles element also was held, with the winning team earning a main draw mixed doubles wild card. This year, players again competed in singles and mixed doubles, but also had the chance to play in the new men's and women's doubles competition to earn main draw doubles wild cards. The US Open National Playoffs Championships are Aug. 21-29. For more information and the complete schedule, visit [www.usopen.org/NationalPlayoffs](http://www.usopen.org/NationalPlayoffs).